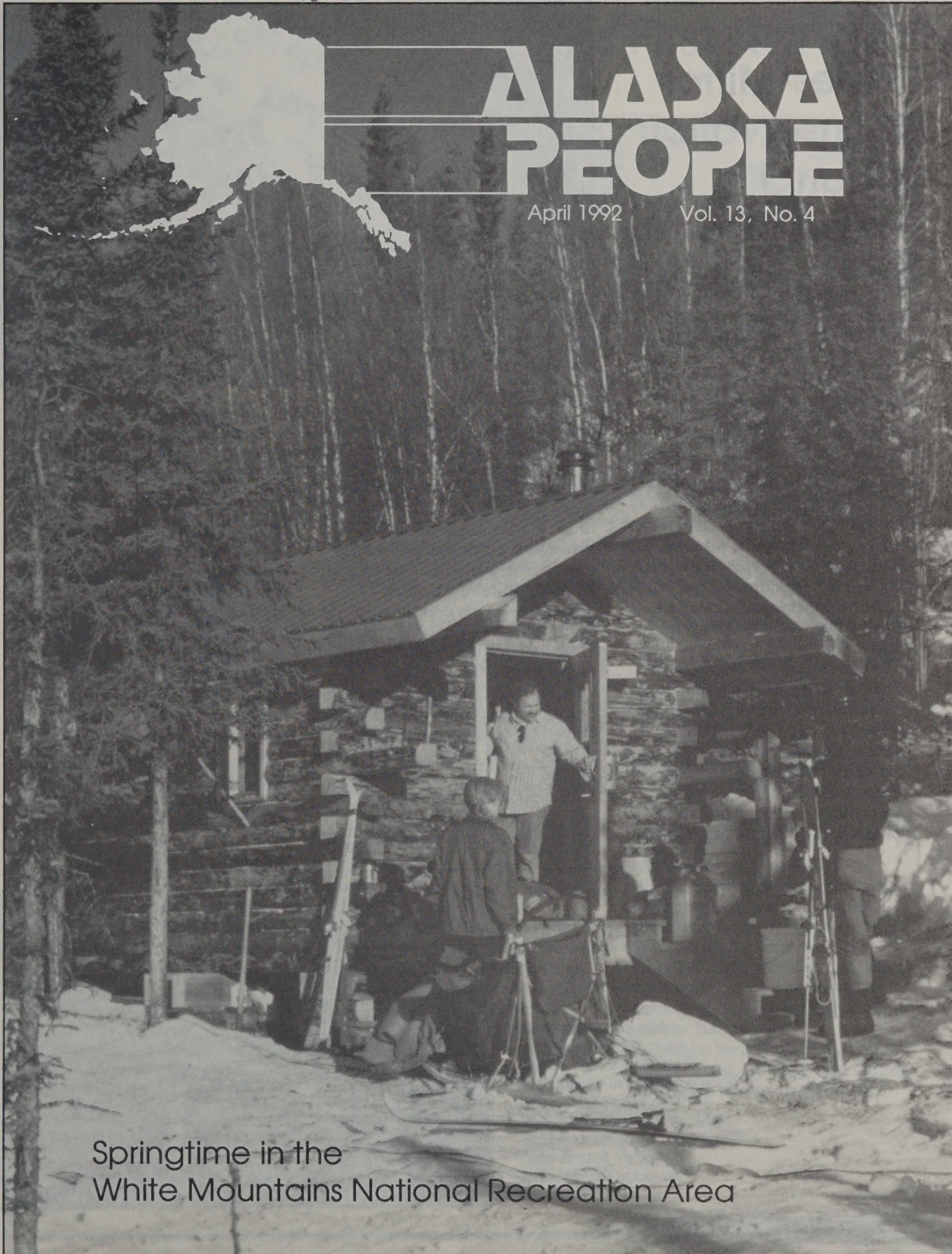


# ALASKA PEOPLE

April 1992

Vol. 13, No. 4



Springtime in the  
White Mountains National Recreation Area



# Times-Mirror Conservation Council Presents Grant to Nome-Beltz High School

by Rob McWhorter

Iditarod champ Martin Buser wasn't the only winner in Nome, Alaska, this month. On March 11, the same day Buser won, Alaska State Director Edward Spang presented the Nome-Beltz High School with one of the first in the nation grants by the Times-Mirror Conservation Council's Partnership for Environmental Education.

In ceremonies at Nome-Beltz High, Spang formally presented on behalf of Francis Pandolfi, the President and CEO of Times-Mirror Magazines, Inc., a check in the amount of \$2,588 in support of the school's fishery project. According to a letter from Pandolfi, "The funds to support



AK Fish & Game biologist Pete Velsko gives BLM State Director Ed Spang and Superintendent of Nome Public Schools, Robert Kirrma, a demonstration of the school's "living stream" aquarium. Director Spang presented the school with a \$2,588 grant from the Times-Mirror Conservation Council in support of the school's cooperative fishery project. (Photo by Rob McWhorter)

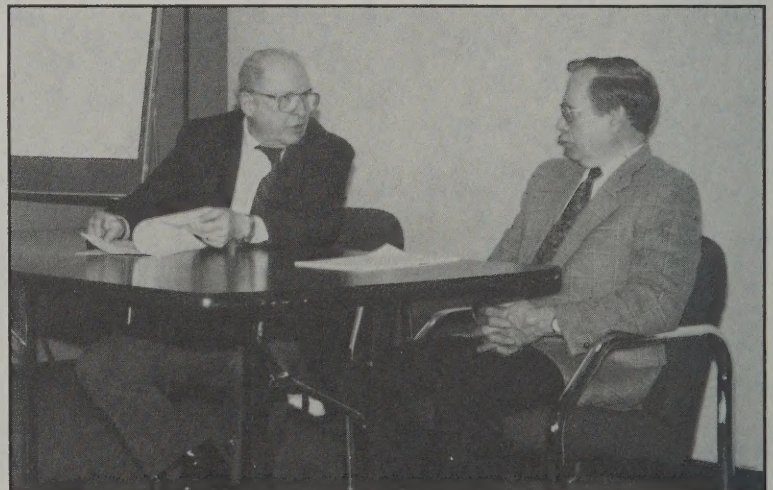
these grants are generated through a portion of the money from advertisements that contain environmental awareness messages." One condition of the grant is that the school provide Times-Mirror two reports on the disposition of the money.

In passing the check over, Spang noted the cooperative roles played by others involved in the project. "The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the school administrators and teachers, as well as the Bureau of Land Management, may take justifiable

pride in the promotion of this educational project. It takes a cooperative approach and a long-term commitment to make these kind of contributions."

The project involves the use of a "living stream" aquarium in which salmon eggs are hatched and reared. The unit is refrigerated to maintain a constant temperature and recycles the water. The project has been in operation since 1990, and has generated a great deal of interest in science classes in Nome.

Alaska Lt. Governor Jack Coghill and State Director Ed Spang recently met to discuss the state process in asserting rights-of-way under Revised Statute 2477. Numerous BLM and other federal staff attended the meeting. (Photo by Ed Bovy)





# Kobuk District Welcomes First Ranger

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

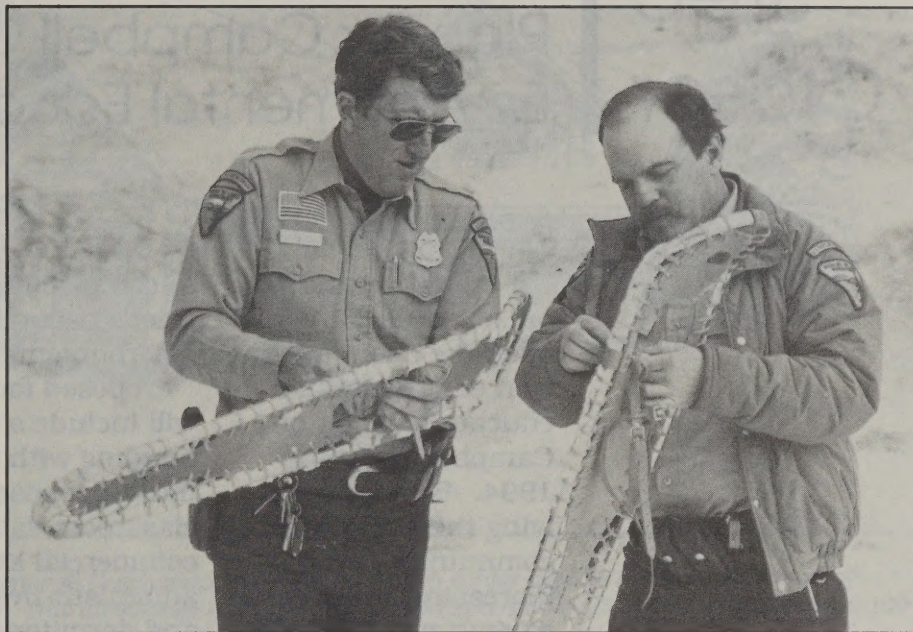
Life has changed drastically for Mike Billbe, the newest ranger for northern Alaska and the first for the Kobuk District. "I came from one of the hottest places in the nation to one of the coldest, at least with the most radical temperature changes," Billbe said. Fairbanks was covered in snow when he arrived from Phoenix, Arizona, February 3.

"I came to Alaska to represent the BLM in multiple use management, to protect public lands, and to personally experience Alaska's recreational opportunities," Billbe said. He is learning more every day about the unique district he will serve. The Kobuk staff manages 16 million acres that have only about 300 miles of road for access.

"Very few of those roads are on public lands," Billbe says. "My patrolling will be by snow-machine, four-wheeler, air or water. I'll be available to public land users for information and assistance, and I'll be assisting the staff specialists when they need me." Billbe has already assisted Kobuk specialists conducting four different snow survey courses. "I had my first opportunity to use snowshoes. I found muscles in my legs I didn't know existed."

Learning the ropes of his new job from Arctic District Ranger Wayne Stevens and Steese/White Mountains District Ranger Randy Tracy, Billbe says, "I have to become familiar with Alaskan public land and its users, and be able to answer new questions."

Billbe has changed locations and agency missions several times as he gained valuable interagency experience. While attending college in a forestry technician program, he worked five seasons with the U.S. Forest



*Kobuk District Ranger Mike Billbe (left), straight out of the Arizona desert, learns proper lacing techniques on his snowshoes from the more experienced Arctic District Ranger Wayne Stevens. (Photo by Dan Gullickson)*

Service and two seasons at Lake Meade and Lake Powell with the National Park Service.

He graduated from Arizona State University in outdoor recreation, and was picked up by the Army Corps of Engineers, where he spent nine years as a ranger. "There was a lot of public contact in their recreation program," Billbe said, "since they manage over 400 lakes and over 200 lock and dam structures in the United States—all near major metropolitan areas."

He joined BLM's Desert District in Barstow, California, in 1984. He worked the Dumont Dunes, near Death Valley, and El Mirage Dry Lake north of Victorville—both areas of high public use. In 1987 Billbe became the Phoenix District's first ranger, and developed a ranger program that has expanded to six rangers. "I personally find it satisfying to be with an agency that manages public lands for different groups, not just one specialized group."

Public contact is Billbe's strong point. In the past, he has contributed to resource education by working with programs for school children and representing BLM at public fairs. He is finding there are several BLM public-contact events already scheduled that need the services of a willing volunteer.

Determined to see as much of Alaska as he could, Billbe traveled up on the ferry. "A Forest Service interpreter was giving a program to a visiting group, and invited me to join in. I learned a lot about Alaska through slide presentations and personal stories, and now I'm doubly eager to experience all Alaska has to offer."

Billbe's love of boating, rafting, gold mining, hunting and fishing may soon be put to good use.



# One Step Closer

## BLM Releases Draft Development Plan for Campbell Creek Environmental Education Center

by Danielle Allen

If everything stays on schedule, BLM will open the doors to its own environmental education center on Campbell Tract in 1994. Besides satisfying the Anchorage community's ever-increasing appetite for environmental education, the center will distinguish Alaska BLM as the first in the Bureau to build and operate an environmental education center.

Preliminary plans call for a rustic appearing facility with modern utilities on the northcentral section of the Campbell Tract. Camouflaged by vegetation, the 10,000-square-foot complex will be located away from BLM's Campbell Tract administrative offices just off Abbott Loop Road in Anchorage.

Campbell Tract manager Kathy Liska, new to the Anchorage District staff, says, "We're looking at a facility having an 'earth friendly' design

to complement the tract's natural environment."

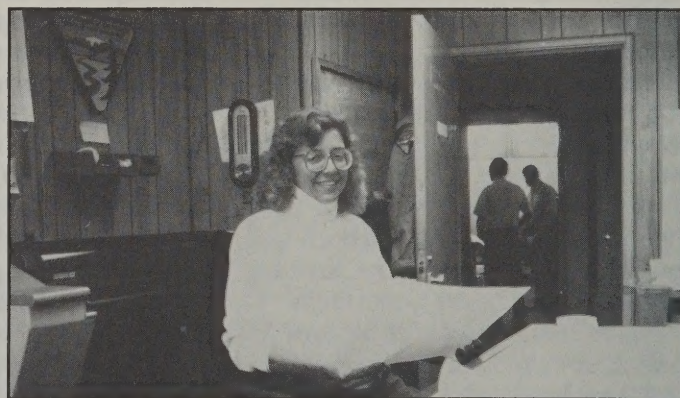
Proposed facilities will include a central building with large multi-purpose room, a classroom, laboratory, commercial kitchen, administrative offices, and dormitory cabins. Adjacent to the facility will be limited parking, an interpretive trail, a wildlife watchtower and a weather station.

Anchorage School District students will be the center's primary users, but Liska says users could range from pre-schoolers to senior

citizens.

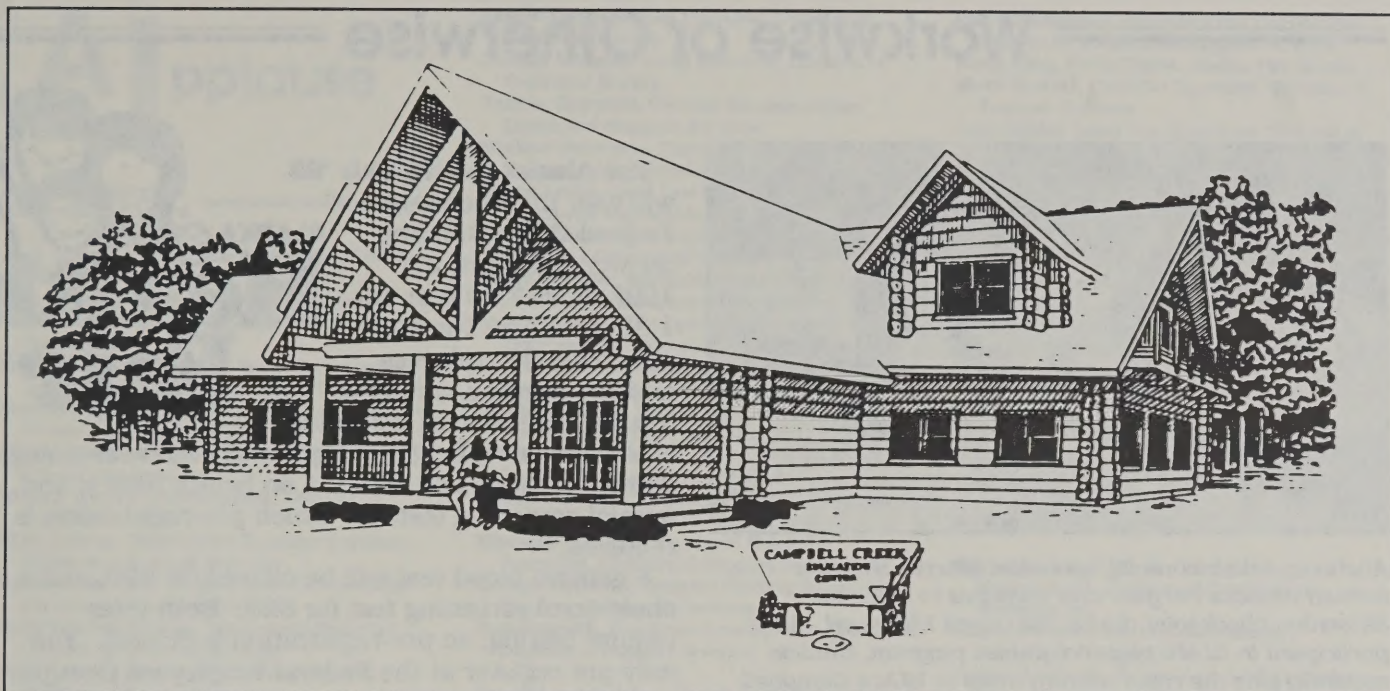
The use of the Campbell Tract for environmental education began almost two decades ago with a program called Outdoor Week. Sponsored by the BLM and the school district, Outdoor Week is held each May on the Campbell Tract, and offers local 6th graders the opportunity to learn about the environment through outdoor activities.

However, the idea for an environmental education center at the Campbell Tract took root 10 years ago



Campbell Tract manager Kathy Liska reviews public comments received since the Campbell Creek environmental education center draft development plan was released in late March. (Photo by Danielle Allen)





*This artist's rendering of the proposed Campbell Creek environmental education center depicts the moderate level of development, BLM's preferred alternative. This alternative calls for construction of a 6,000-8,000 square foot center, 100-person dormitory, handicap-accessible interpretive trails and parking area.*

with the school district and the Alaska Center for Resource Education (ACRE). In 1987 a pitch by ACRE for a small rustic environmental center on the Campbell Tract prompted BLM to incorporate the proposal into its Campbell Tract management plan. By 1991, however, after assessing community needs and reviewing environmental issues and wildlife habitat on the Tract, the rustic facility proposal evolved into a more moderate sized facility.

Liska, who inherits the environmental education center project from State Office outdoor

recreation specialist Paul Boos, says, "This is BLM's chance to accomplish an exciting and innovative educational outreach program. From the start, it's been a cooperative effort with the Anchorage community. And that will continue as we work with non-profit organizations and establish cooperative agreements with the Anchorage Municipality and the Anchorage School District."

Once architectural and engineering design work is completed, construction of the center will begin in 1993. An environmental education curriculum

is currently being developed. By the time the center opens in 1994, a BLM on-site manager will schedule and orient teachers and others to the center.

BLM released a draft environmental education center development plan and environmental assessment for the Campbell Tract in late March. A public comment period on the plan concludes by mid-April.



# Workwise or Otherwise

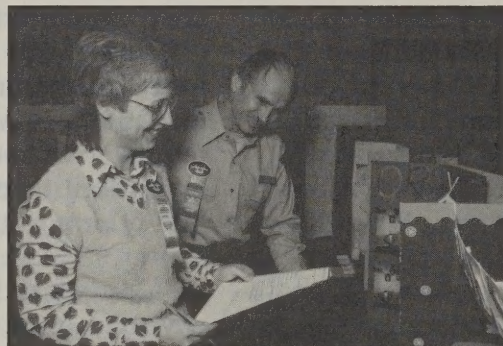


Anchorage District realty specialist **Martin Hanson** (center) repacks his gear and prepares to leave the Skwentna checkpoint during the recent Iditasport. As a participant in BLM's physical fitness program, Hanson regularly skis the cross country trails at BLM's Campbell Tract Facility. This was the 10th year Hanson has raced in the 200-mile athletic event. Also pictured are skier Wade Brooks (left) and Dr. Ron Christiansen of the Anchorage Federal Building Health Unit. (Photo by Sharon Dean)

Kobuk District natural resource specialist **Larry Knapman** was presented a National Conservation Award on March 7 by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR's National Conservation Committee, dedicated to the preservation of the natural resources of our country, presented the certificate to Knapman in recognition of over 30 years of outstanding achievements in conservation work.

ASO Office Services will distribute **parking applications** by April 15 to all BLM employees in the Anchorage Federal Office Building. Completed applications must be returned to Office Services (AK-974A) by May 8. New parking assignments will be effective June 29. Questions may be directed to Rick Gregg at X3195.

The upcoming **Employee Excellence Seminar** has been postponed until some time after October 1. Employees already nominated will be notified of exact date and location.



Kobuk District realty specialists **Betsy Bonnell & Dave Mobraten** (above) and Arctic District mining engineer **Don Keill** (right) were among 14 BLMers serving as volunteer judges at the recent Tanana Junior High Science Fair in Fairbanks. The annual event encourages students to focus

on natural resources and the world's environment. (Photo by Dan Gullickson)

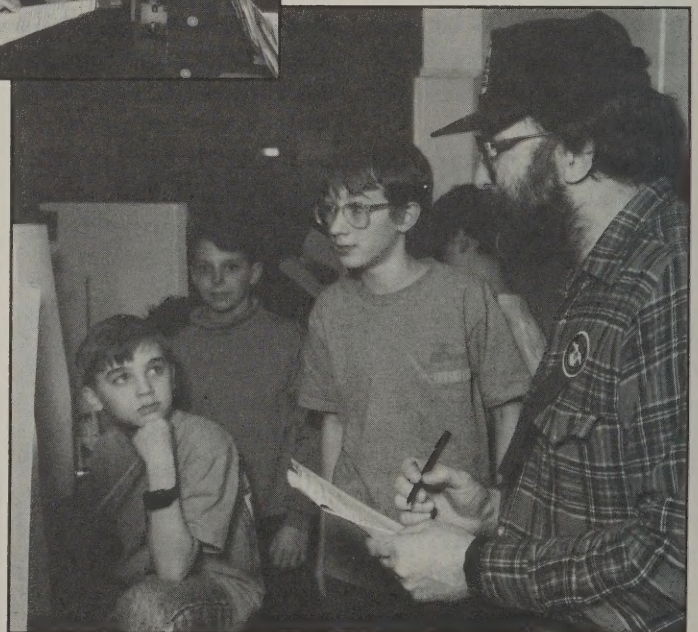
## The Alaska Health Fair '92

will visit the Anchorage Federal Office Building on Monday, April 27, 1992, from 7:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. The fair will offer federal employees and the public a variety of free health services, including blood pressure, height, weight and vision screening; demonstrations and exhibits on health topics; and special screening tests for which pre-registration is required.

A general blood test will be offered for \$20, and a cholesterol screening test for \$25. Both tests require fasting, so pre-registration is critical. You may pre-register at the Federal Employees Occupational Health Unit, Room 532 (5th floor), on April 22-24 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. each day.

The Health Unit will also offer a one-hour presentation on stress management on Monday, April 13, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 130 (1st floor),

Anchorage Federal Office Building. Called "Reducing Stress Through Communication & Humor," the presentation will feature a video and a lecture by Juneau Health Unit nurse coordinator Susan Andrews.





## Sustained Superior Performance Award

**Jack Frost**, Cartographic Technician, Division of Support Services  
**Rita Booth**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, Division of Lands and Renewable Resources  
**Dennis Walworth**, Supervisory Cartographic Technician, Division of Support Services  
**Ronald Biggs**, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Division of Support Services  
**Cheryl Rolland**, Civil Engineer, Division of Support Services  
**Hawley Evans**, Civil Engineer, Division of Support Services  
**Glen Nelson**, Offset Press Operator Foreman, Division of Support Services  
**William Dawson**, Bindery Machine Operator, Division of Support Services  
**Greg Chavez**, Bindery Equipment Operator, Division of Support Services  
**Paul Russell**, Bindery Machine Operator, Division of Support Services  
**Jill Cubbedge**, Shipping Assistant, Division of Support Services  
**Reta Hubbard**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Dorine McCall**, Secretary, Division of Information Resource Management  
**Daniel Healey**, Program Analyst, Division of Information Resource Management  
**Garth Olson**, LIS Coordinator, Division of Information Resource Management  
**Kimberly Pearce**, Photolithographer, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**David Bieganski**, Cartographic Technician, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Dwayne Richardson**, Photolithographer Leader, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**William Johnston**, Cartographic Technician, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Dorothy Hermansen**, Land Law Assistant, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Ann Richardson**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Information Resource Management  
**Charles Luddington**, Photolithographer, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Rick Gregg**, Accounting Technician, Division of Support Services  
**Frankie Pederson**, Training Instructor, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Patricia Moreno**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Joe Labay**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Charles Brown**, Supervisory Navigable Waters Specialist, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Scott Twenhofel**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Orrin Frederick**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Stephen Hamrick**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Ron Walter**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Michael Birtles**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Michael Beale**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Gary Marcinlak**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Willard Olson**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey

**Lester Fischer**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Joseph Maestas**, Land Surveyor, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Thursa Hayward**, Contact Representative, Division of Support Services  
**Michael Peterson**, Cartographic Technician, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Susan Lavin**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Lands and Renewable Resources  
**James Hollibaugh**, Cartographic Technician, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Susan DiPrete**, Navigable Waters Specialist, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Marjorie Page**, Employee Development Assistant, Division of Support Services  
**Sandra Larson**, Supervisory Personnel Staffing Specialist, Division of Support Services  
**Sandra Wallace**, Personnel Staffing Specialist, Division of Support Services  
**Patricia Fatherree**, Personnel Actions Clerk, Division of Support Services  
**Nancy Brainerd**, Employee Relations Assistant, Division of Support Services  
**Timothy Godfrey**, Employee Relations Specialist, Division of Support Services  
**George Jarrett**, Personnel Staffing Specialist, Division of Support Services  
**Ronal Smith**, Employee Development Specialist, Division of Support Services

## Special Act Service Award

**Arleen Ice**, Secretary, Division of Support Services  
**Paul Guyer**, Biologist, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**David Dash**, Supervisory Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service  
**Brenda Coleman**, Staffing Assistant, Division of Support Services  
**Willie Teffeteller**, Classification Specialist, Division of Support Services

## Quality Increase Award

**Gregory Balen**, Geologist, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Bruce Giffen**, Geologist, Anchorage District Office  
**Kenneth Waggoner**, Wildlife Biologist, Anchorage District Office  
**John Lewis**, Natural Resource Specialist, Anchorage District Office  
**Terry Hobbs**, Automated Resource Data Specialist, Anchorage District Office  
**Sandra Thomas**, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Division of Lands and Renewable Resources  
**Nancy Larsen**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management

## On-the-Spot Cash Award

**Lynn Rogers**, Cartographic Technician, Division of Cadastral Survey  
**Richard Bouts**, Supervisory Landscape Architect, Steese/White Mountains District Office

## Length of Service

### 10-Year Service Award

**Janice Hopster**, Secretary, Division of Mineral Resources  
**Judy Kelley**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Christopher Pearson**, Supervisory General Supply Specialist, Alaska Fire Service  
**Thelma McCoy**, Archaeologist, Glennallen District Office

**Carol Nicholson**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, Division of Support Services  
**Mary King**, Clerk Typist, Alaska Fire Service  
**Mary Bertini**, Contract Specialist, Division of Support Services  
**Jane Miller**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Rex McKnight**, Lead Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service  
**David Mushovic**, Realty Specialist, Glennallen District Office  
**Lisa Burgess**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Patricia Holm**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Kenneth Coe**, Supervisory Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service

## 20-Year Service Award

**Walter Blankenship**, Materials Handler Leader, Division of Support Services

## 30-Year Service Award

**Wayne Boden**, DSD for Conveyance Management, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Richard Vernimen**, District Manager, Anchorage District Office  
**James Andrews**, Supervisory Civil Engineer, Division of Support Services

## Welcome Aboard (March 1992)

**Anne E. Morkill**, Wildlife Biologist, Kobuk District Office  
**William Journey**, Secretary (Typing), Alaska Fire Service  
**John C. Manning**, Support Service Clerk (OA), Division of Support Services  
**Ronald Roberson**, Automotive Mechanic, Alaska Fire Service  
**Lee C. Koss**, Hydrologist, Division of Mineral Resources  
**Janelle Eklund**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Glennallen District Office  
**Patsy Pearson**, Land Law Assistant, Division of Mineral Resources  
**Janice Hopster**, Secretary, Division of Mineral Resources  
**Jeff Pinkerton**, Procurement Clerk, Division of Support Services  
**Robert Elnarsen**, Survey Technician, Division of Cadastral  
**Lorna Blue**, Office Automation Assistant (OA), Division of Conveyance Management  
**Patricia Moore**, Land Law Assistant (OA), Division of Conveyance Management

## Moving On (March 1992)

**Derry D. Burnett**, Supply Clerk, Division of Support Services  
**Steve M. Johnson**, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service  
**Robert H. Lee**, Supervisory Forest Technician, Alaska Fire Service  
**Steve M. McGee**, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service  
**Paula S. Price**, Support Service Clerk (Typing), Division of Support Services  
**James W. Kitchen**, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service  
**Helen Armstrong**, Anthropologist, Division of Lands & Renewable Resources  
**Patricia Moreno**, Land Law Examiner, Division of Conveyance Management  
**Kent Biddulph**, Landscape Architect, Division of Lands & Renewable Resources



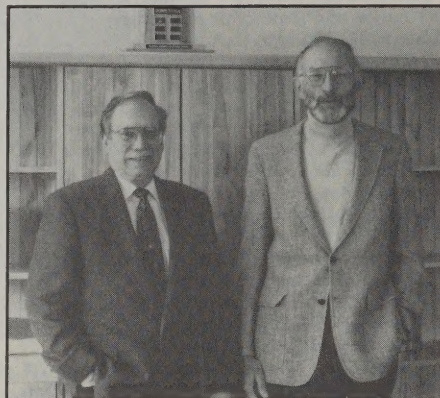
## Where Are They Now?

When federal employees retire, often a wealth of scientific expertise retires with them. BLM professionals appear to be the exception as more and more BLM retirees put their knowledge and skills to work by volunteering for a variety of professional organizations.

Retired from BLM since 1985, former DSD for Minerals Jim Richardson is a good example. A long-standing member of the Society of American Foresters, Richardson served as chair of the Alaska chapter in 1991, and now assists the 1992 chair.

Richardson also serves as Alaska's representative to the Public Lands Foundation, a national non-profit organization of retired BLM professionals.

"A major key in the successful management of public lands is an understanding and informed public," says Richardson. "This is where the Public Lands Foundation comes in. BLM retirees are in a unique position to provide the public with the facts. They have long experience with the public lands and the complexities of their management. The Foundation puts this knowledge to work through newsletters,



*Jim Richardson (right), retired Deputy State Director for Mineral Resources, and State Director Ed Spang. (Photo by Teresa McPherson)*

position statements, analytical papers and public forums."

Richardson just returned from the Foundation's annual meeting in Reno, Nevada, where former BLM Alaska SD Mike Penfold was guest speaker.

When his other activities permit, Richardson spends as much time as possible at his Cooper Landing cabin on the Kenai River, where he likes to "fish until the freezer is full, then catch and release." He's also an avid gardener, and often donates his surplus to charities such as Bean's Cafe in Anchorage.

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Teresa McPherson  
Layout - Jim Mroczek



### On the Cover:

Spring, with warmer temperatures and more daylight hours, is a popular time in the White Mountains National Recreation Area. Visitors to BLM's Wolf Run Cabin enjoy a rustic experience in a truly breathtaking setting. The Wolf Run Cabin is one of eight cabins managed by BLM in the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

*(Photo by Ed Bouy)*



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